

AID FOR OUR TOWNS

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 33rd state Senate District is ensuring Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland and Westbrook receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2008–2009:

	Fiscal Year 08-09
Total Education Grants	\$42,483,728
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,513,280
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$657,998
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$777,945
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$718,228
Total	\$46,151,180

KEEPING JOBS & TAX REVENUE IN CONNECTICUT

Many Connecticut-based companies are losing state contracts to out-of-state companies. Instead of using state contracts to create jobs here, all too often multi-million dollar contracts are awarded to consulting firms in Arizona, printers in Michigan, and so on. I helped pass a law that will keep more of our tax dollars and jobs in Connecticut. The ‘reciprocal preference’ or ‘Golden Rule’ bill levels the playing field for local companies competing with certain out-of-state companies. The bill ensures that if another state offers an advantage to its own companies, then we do the same for our companies when they try to win a contract with the State of Connecticut.

The legislature held a special session last month to address cost overruns in some state agencies and to override the governor’s vetoes. Unfortunately, there were not enough votes to override the veto of our health coverage plan. We will continue to work on this important matter next session.

We were able to overturn the governor’s veto of the minimum wage bill. It increases the minimum wage to \$8.00 on January 1, 2009 and \$8.25 on January 1, 2010. I was raised in what would have been called a minimum wage household with both my parents holding multiple jobs. I assure you that small amount of money makes a big difference to these struggling families.



Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes important investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut’s families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. While we held the line on any new spending during this past legislative session, we were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, and the environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Eileen M. Daily*

Eileen Daily  
State Senator



State Senator  
Eileen Daily

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I’m proud to represent the  
33rd Senate District:  
Centerbrook • Chester  
Clinton • Colchester  
Deep River  
East Haddam  
East Hampton  
Essex • Haddam  
Hadlyme • Ivoryton  
Lyme • Moodus  
Old Saybrook  
Portland • Westbrook

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State Senator  
**Eileen Daily**  
33RD DISTRICT



## LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



### Softening the Punch at the Pump

With one eye on local gas pumps and one eye on the state's precarious budget circumstance, the legislature voted in June to repeal a scheduled tax increase to curb spiraling gas prices. The revenue

had been targeted for the state's transportation needs; we decided the more immediate needs of state residents took precedence. Connecticut now bears the brunt of the federal government's misguided energy policy. Regrettably, states can do little to counter production bottlenecks, speculation, and market forces that result in runaway retail prices. Our vote helps avoid a certain increase at the pump, although the best way to improve market conditions would be significantly increased fuel efficiency to reduce demand for gasoline. Gas prices may continue to increase, but this previously scheduled increase will not be the reason.

### Who Knew What and When

A new railcar maintenance facility is an essential ingredient for imminent plans for 21st century rail service between New London and New York. In 2005 the legislature authorized bonding for up to \$300 million to complete its construction. We read in the newspaper that the DOT informs us the projected cost has ballooned fourfold to an estimated \$1.2 billion, and the drawings still aren't complete. Compounding this serious problem is evidence the DOT—and quite likely, the governor herself—knew of this gross underestimation for at least a year without notifying the legislature. Rest assured, before any additional funding is authorized, the Finance Committee, which I chair, working collaboratively with the Transportation Committee, will bridge the emerging credibility gap and firmly establish the scope, cost and means of financing this project.

To date we have had two joint meetings of the Finance and Transportation committees and a tour of the rail yard facility so we may better understand all aspects of the issue. Additional meetings are scheduled in July with the new Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe Marie (who was appointed after the problem surfaced) and with Metro-North, a partner in this undertaking.

In addition, the governor has hired yet another engineering firm, Hill International, Inc., to provide a report on this project due in September. I will do my very best to make sure this project does not turn into a fully-loaded Lexus while our citizens struggle to fill their oil tanks and struggle to put gas in their cars.



### Victory Over Broadwater

We received great news when we learned that the State of New York rejected Broadwater Energy's plan to construct a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound. The Long Island Sound LNG Task Force and other public officials in Connecticut and New York raised concerns that the project would have a negative impact on the environment and public safety, would set a bad precedent by commercializing Long Island Sound, and would not guarantee lower cost natural gas. Public officials throughout the Northeast must work together to address our region's energy challenges by bringing new, additional, and alternative energy sources on line in an efficient, environmentally sound, sustainable manner.

### Allowing Seniors to Receive Care at Home

Many seniors who require long-term care would prefer to receive that care in their own home or with a relative caregiver. For many, that is not an option due to Medicaid reimbursement rules. A federal program called 'Money Follows the Person' allows Medicaid funds to 'follow the patient' from nursing homes to more personalized settings. The state program can currently enroll 700 seniors, but we expanded the program to accommodate up to 5,000. The state's reimbursement rate for those in the program will climb from 50 to 75 percent for each enrollee. Most seniors prefer home care when complete independence is no longer possible, and this federal/state partnership helps grant that wish.



### Tougher Requirements, Education for Teen Drivers

Communities across the state are grieving over the loss of young lives in tragic automobile accidents. The General Assembly made several changes this year to help prevent fatal accidents involving teenage drivers and passengers. Teens are now required to spend more time behind the wheel before they can get a driver's license, and for one year they cannot drive with passengers under age 18 who are not immediate family. Teens will also face harsh penalties, including license suspensions, for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving, speeding, street racing and using a cell phone while driving. While we cannot prevent every accident—if we can save just one family from tragedy—these new laws will be a success.



### Criminal Justice Reforms

Crime is an issue that has been on the minds of many state residents for several months, and the General Assembly took strong and decisive action this year on a variety of criminal justice matters. The legislature created the new crime of "home invasion," which carries a mandatory 10-year minimum jail term, and created a full-time, professional Board of Pardons and Parole. We also approved doubling and tripling prison sentences for the most violent of criminals while simultaneously giving criminal justice professionals the \$10 million needed to enhance public safety. That money will be used to prosecute repeat offenders, track sexual offenders, hire more investigators and probation officers, and increase funding for prisoner re-entry programs.

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As the Senate chair of the General Assembly's Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I spoke at many press conferences addressing our state's finances during the legislative session.



### Protecting Homeowners and Our Economy

This year, I supported legislation to help keep families in their homes and protect our local economy from the subprime mortgage crisis. The legislation we passed created the Homeowner's Equity Recovery Opportunity (HERO) loan program, which allows the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority to purchase home loans from lenders and place eligible borrowers on affordable payment schedules for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages. We also re-initiated the state's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program, reinvested in the CT FAMILIES Program, created a foreclosure mediation program, and placed new restrictions and license requirements on mortgage brokers and lenders.

